

most Americans asked one question. What stops ISIS from attacking the United States in this way? The answer is clear, nothing. This is a major political issue for the next presidential race. This attack in Paris can have an outcome on who the Americans select as their next president. The way the candidates respond to ISIS can decide who will be the next leader of our great country. This attack put ISIS at the top of the list for American issues and they will continue to be a focal point for the American government for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ABBE LAND—28TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Abbe Land, of West Hollywood, California.

Abbe arrived in California in the late 1970s and has since dedicated her life to public service. Drawn into public life by possible eviction, she joined the Coalition for Economic Survival, a tenants' rights group to build the City of West Hollywood with LGBTQ activists, renters, and immigrants. After her appointment to the city's very first planning commission, Abbe was elected Councilmember for the City of West Hollywood and served for 23 years including serving as Mayor five times.

For much of her time on the council, she served as the sole woman, and she was instrumental in the creation of the Women's Advisory Board, Disabilities Advisory Board, and the city's domestic violence prevention program for same-sex couples. For more than two decades, she has influenced policy at the local, state, and federal levels. In 1993, she led the effort for West Hollywood to declare itself the nation's first "pro-choice city." In 1996, she led her city in enacting an important gun control ordinance which paved the way for the state of California to ban the sale of certain handguns.

Abbe is currently the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Trevor Project, a nationally recognized nonprofit providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention to LGBTQ youth. Under her leadership, the Trevor Project continues to save the lives of youth around the country. Prior to the Trevor Project, Abbe served as Co-CEO of the Saban Free Clinic, in Los Angeles, where she led the clinic's growth from a budget of \$6 million to one of \$16 million.

From Abbe's work protecting our environment to fighting for civil and reproductive rights, from her support for inclusionary housing to her efforts to combat homelessness, the people of the 28th District have benefited from her voice and steady leadership. Throughout her life's work, Abbe has been an inspiration to all who fight injustice.

Abbe continues to live in West Hollywood with her husband, artist Martin Gantman.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Abbe Land, for her extraordinary service to the community.

CELEBRATING COLUMBIA STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 50TH
YEAR

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Columbia State Community College's 50th year of excellence in education and ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating their success.

Columbia State is Tennessee's first community college. Their vision has been to build on its heritage of excellence through innovation in education and services that foster success and bring distinction and recognition for the quality and effectiveness of the college. At the college's convocation on September 26, 1966, former Tennessee Governor Frank G. Clement said, "Because of this school, young people who otherwise would have to terminate their academic career at the high school level will find a way into the world of higher education."

Today, Columbia State has grown and expanded into five different campus locations including Columbia, Franklin, Lawrenceburg, Lewisburg, and Clifton. They also serve in nine of the Seventh District's counties. The college is home to thousands of alumni who have gone on to make an impact in all different sectors of society and industries.

I honor Columbia State Community College for serving and empowering people for the last 50 years to achieve their educational aspirations and go farther than they ever thought possible and I join with them in their celebration of achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on March 14, 2016, I missed a vote on S. 2426, directing the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the international Criminal Police Organization. However, I would like to reflect that had I been present for this vote I would have voted "yea".

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAMTRANS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SamTrans, a core provider of public transit and allied services in San Mateo County and for all of Silicon Valley, upon its 40th Anniversary. This is the story of a government agency that sees mountains as molehills, and that believes that challenges are merely pot-holes to be filled.

In one of its many roles, SamTrans operates buses in San Mateo County. In its second role, it administers Caltrain service linking San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties—the heart of Silicon Valley. Finally, the staff of SamTrans also manage the San Mateo County Transportation Authority. This trifecta of public agencies—all operated via SamTrans—have become the backbone of mobility across three counties over the past forty years.

In 1976, SamTrans was formed through the consolidation of 11 municipal bus systems in San Mateo County. The following year, it began what was to become a decades-long effort at inclusion of our entire population in transit services with the commencement of Redi-Wheels service. Redi-Wheels offers mobility to the disabled. My mother-in-law regularly used Redi-Wheels, linking her to doctor's appointments, trips to the grocery store, and bridge club gatherings throughout the community. SamTrans is not simply a bus or train or road construction organization. It offers all of our residents dignity through mobility, an offer accepted by over 300,000 disabled residents in 2015 alone.

The success of SamTrans is evident in its expanding scope of operations during these past four decades. From operating bus service starting in 1976, SamTrans was made the managing agency of our local transportation authority—the body that funds roads—in 1988. While the board of the transportation authority sets priorities, the SamTrans staff plans and carries out those directives.

This spirit of flexibility and frugality was recognized as invaluable when, in 1992, SamTrans was made the managing partner of the newly-created Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. While the Board of Directors of the joint powers board oversees Caltrain service, the staff of SamTrans makes important contributions to the planning and operating backbone of Caltrain. Baby Bullet Caltrain service, launched in 2004 and promising to cut travel times between San Francisco and San Jose by up to 50 percent, sparked a renaissance in Caltrain ridership which today is over 60,000 passengers every weekday. SamTrans and Caltrain have since worked together so that trains, buses and shuttles support these commuters throughout the week and throughout San Mateo County.

In 1992, the SamTrans board also provided 25 percent of the construction costs of the Colma BART station, bringing BART service further into northern San Mateo County. Eventually, BART arrived at San Francisco International Airport, bus service was modified to account for emerging travel patterns, and roadways were constructed, all with the participation of SamTrans staff and its board.

Mr. Speaker, you might ask why voters repeatedly approved sales tax measures to create this web of mobility. Approval arises from the confidence that voters have in the staff of SamTrans in its multiple roles serving bus riders, train travelers and motorists. Unlike some transportation agencies, there is no drama at SamTrans, only reliable delivery—of bus service, train service or road construction.

Today, the bus service that is at the core of the operations of SamTrans continues to evolve. Service has been consolidated along the El Camino corridor and increased in frequency to once every fifteen minutes. Bus service on weekends has been extended

south into Santa Clara County and northward to Devil's Slide to serve weekend visitors to our new county park. Over the years, SamTrans set records for miles travelled between major repairs, miles driven without accidents, courtesy towards customers, participation in community events, and as a great place to work. In fiscal year 2015, 13.1 million rides were taken on SamTrans buses, and 2016 is destined to be an even greater year.

Mr. Speaker, this is an agency that struggles to keep up with the expectations of the public, but this is the opposite of the image of some government agencies which are, sadly, viewed as unresponsive to public needs. SamTrans, with a board that welcomes challenges and a staff which multi-tasks across three counties and tens of millions of dollars of annual obligations, has a bright future. Forty years ago, no one could foresee that the consolidation of several bus lines would lead to serving over 13 million bus riders annually. No one could foresee the multiple roles that this organization would come to play. However, at 40 years and thriving, SamTrans has become the mobility master of Silicon Valley. We honor its past, welcome its future, and celebrate its spirit. Thank you, SamTrans, for all of your roles and activities. SamTrans moves Silicon Valley.

POLICE BRUTALITY EVENTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight from across the political spectrum that sheds a light on the concerns of our younger constituents. Giving voice to their priorities will hopefully instill a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Alexa Keller attends Seven Lakes High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past year and explain how that event has changed/shaped our country.

Several well-publicized police brutality events near the end of 2014 created a new wave of race discrimination discussions across America. After the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, protestors held up signs exclaiming, "Hands up, don't shoot", and after the choking death of Eric Garner in New York City, the cry of "I can't breathe" by protestors demonstrated their outrage. Social media furthered the causes, and during the 2015 presidential debates, most candidates took a stance on whether "Black Lives Matter" or "All Lives Matter." Specifically, the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Maryland, in April of 2015, and the consequences of his death will shape the future of America with respect to race relations and law enforcement.

In April, 25-year-old Freddie Gray died while in police custody, which led to weeks

of protests and unrest. Stores were looted and a CVS pharmacy was burned to ground, after thieves took off with all the prescription drugs they could get their hands on. Baltimore found itself in a predicament because it was unprepared for this kind of mass protest, and law enforcement certainly didn't expect it to go on for weeks.

Once the rioting was finished, the city of Baltimore was left in a state of flux. There was an "Us vs. Them" relationship between police and citizens. To make matters worse, the number of homicides in Baltimore in 2015 hit 344, the highest total since 1993 when Baltimore had 100,000 more people living in it (Baltimore Sun). In addition, there were more than 900 shootings in Baltimore last year, which was up 75% over the prior year. During the weeks of unrest in April and May, over 150 police officers were injured. The general feeling of unease between officers and citizens is assumed to be the main reason that now the police force in Baltimore is down by 200 officers.

The city of Baltimore needs to make significant progress toward fixing the situation, but at what cost? Recently, over \$2 million was spent on new civil disturbance equipment which includes protective gear, shields, and helmets. (www.nytimes.com) The Maryland State Assembly is working toward a new law enforcement bill of rights to provide police with extra legal protection that is not afforded to the general public. But, will these measures fix the anti-cop rhetoric which likely makes it difficult for police officers to do their jobs correctly and effectively? The fact that the "Black Lives Matter" leader DeRay McKesson is planning to run for mayor of Baltimore is proof that relations are still dicey. Baltimore will likely prove to be a microcosm for the rest of the country, and how it handled the events that occurred in 2015 has and has the potential to impact the United States as a whole.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. DANA LOUISE RAPHAEL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Dana Louise Raphael, who passed away on February 2, 2016, at the age of 90. Dr. Raphael will be remembered as someone who lived her life with dedication to her community, family, and to her career in the field of medical anthropology.

Dr. Raphael was born on January 5, 1926, in New Britain, Connecticut, to Louis Raphael and Naomi Kaplan. From a very young age, education was of great importance to Dr. Raphael. She attended Columbia University, where she earned both her bachelor's and doctorate degrees. While at Columbia University, Dr. Raphael was a protégée of cultural anthropologist, Margaret Mead and became one of the first scientists that challenged milk formula manufacturers.

In 1953, Dr. Raphael married the love of her life, Howard Boone Jacobson, and as a newlywed, completed her initial field work in India. Dr. Raphael soon became a respected medical anthropologist, writer, and lecturer. She is well-known for her global work in supporting breast feeding and is credited for launching the Doula movement in the United States. Dr. Raphael first used the term doula in her 1969 anthropological study to describe women care-

givers during labor and childbirth whose function was associated with the success of breastfeeding.

In 1975, Dr. Raphael and Margaret Mead co-founded the Human Lactation Center (HLC). The HLC researches lactation patterns around the world and is also an NGO with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Her advocacy allowed her to take on companies like Nestle in the 1980s pushing them to become more aware of the role producers of formula played in infant mortality in developing countries. Dr. Raphael's contributions to these projects resulted in the implementation of education programs for young mothers to prevent unnecessary deaths of newborns. Her willingness to help people was conveyed in her book *Tender Gift: Breastfeeding*, which was published in 1973. The book was a product of Dr. Raphael's own sadness of not being able to breastfeed her son and outlined a number of tools for women to assist with successful breastfeeding. The book went on to be known as the breastfeeding bible by many in the midwife and doula community.

During the last 20 years of her life, Dr. Raphael served on the U.S. Board of the Club of Rome where she committed herself to educating world leaders on the impacts of climate change.

She also served as an Adjunct Professor at Yale University, was an invited lecturer in the U.S., China, India, and Japan, and was a recipient of two Fulbright awards. Throughout her career, Dr. Raphael recognized the importance of serving her community and expressed a profound love for it. Her contributions to women around the world will be her legacy. She is survived by her sons, Seth Jacobson and Brett Raphael, daughter, Jessa Murnin, and her six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Dr. Dana Louise Raphael. Dr. Raphael touched and aided many people throughout her life. Her advocacy, deep commitment, and positive attitude will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

CONGRATULATING DAVID PRINGLE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of admiration that we congratulate Mr. David Pringle, Senior Vice President of Aflac, on his retirement on behalf of the citizens of our districts.

As you know, Aflac is one of Georgia's most renowned and respected companies. The company has repeatedly found its name on prestigious lists such as Fortune's 100 Best Companies to Work For and Ethisphere's list of World's Most Ethical Companies. In addition, Aflac has generously provided the opportunity for more than 5,000 skilled individuals to demonstrate the spirit that has made the company a household name and has helped make Georgia a highly desirable place to live and raise a family.

What makes a company like Aflac so successful are the employees and leaders, like